



October 24, 2013

I am writing to send comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPM, proceeding 13-184. Amarillo ISD would not be where it is today without E-Rate support. It has helped the district's staff and students gain access to numerous resources, learn modern communication strategies and communicate and collaborate with people around the globe.

Current E-Rate funding has not kept pace with the bandwidth and equipment needs of the district. I strongly encourage you to raise the funding levels to meet the average demands of the last couple years; approx. \$5 billion dollars. I also urge you to change the program Priority 2 guidelines to stretch the reach of the funding levels.

As a district in Texas, we are 67% socio-economically disadvantaged and the numbers continue to climb. I would rather forego the 2 of 5 rule to 1 of 5 to have the ability to spread Priority 2 dollars down to my 80% funded campuses. This would allow campuses to still maintain, upgrade and refresh the equipment at a larger number of campuses and provide for greater networking capabilities amongst a larger group of students. Just because a campus does not have enough low income students should not hamper the campuses ability to new technologies.

We know the importance of digital learning and how it can make an impact on our new technology driven lives. Help us provide a greater experience for them so that they may be prepared for the future that waits. Provide for higher speed broadband, modern teaching techniques and collaboration through the learning experiences of today. With the number of services that are now being moved to the cloud and the demands of online testing, the bandwidth demands will continue to grow.

E-Rate is a critical component of Amarillo ISD, as with so many districts around this great nation. I would ask the FCC to drastically increase funding, adjust the criteria of the program and provide for inflationary factors. Everyone deserves the best education that we can afford them and the future of our nation depends upon it.

God Bless this great land,

Jeff D. Roller  
Chief Technology Officer  
Amarillo Independent School District